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Noxious Times

a quarterly publication of the California Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee

Special Double Edition

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Weed Management Areas Hit Full Stride in California

This month the Noxious Times focuses on Weed Management Areas (WMA) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Weed Management Area Program. There are brief summaries of each WMA in the state, as well as expanded descriptions of a sample of stand-out programs. Included is a summary of the implementation of Assembly Bill 1168, Frusetta (Chapter 961, Statutes of 1999) and the program changes that have occurred as a result of Senate Bill 1740, Leslie (Chapter 315, Statutes of 2000). Both of these bills authorize the Noxious Weed Management Fund within CDFA and the support program to administer the allocation of the funding.

Nate Dechoretz speaks at the 2000 Statewide WMA Meeting

These two pieces of legislation, supported and signed by Governor Gray Davis, have provided an initial impetus and given new hope to landowners and public land holding agencies who have been losing economic and biological resources to the spread of noxious weeds. The bills provided a total of $5.4 million over a period of six years to local public and private partnerships

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NFWF Pulling Together Initiative Grants Available

The *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation* (NFWF) 2003, *Pulling Together Initiative* (PTI), provides a means for federal agencies to be full partners with state and local agencies, private landowners, and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy.

PTI provides support on a competitive basis. NFWF has put out a call for proposals to award current funding. This is one of the most targeted grants for Weed Management Areas.

The deadline for proposals is November 6, 2002. Typically grants get renewed 3-4 years in a row. They average $20,000-60,000 per year. California is typically a big winner, getting 6-10 of about 40 grants awarded nationally each year.

The *NFWF 2003 PTI* will be funded through a partnership program between the following agencies:

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- USDA-Animal and Plant Health

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Chairman's Message:

Steve Schoenig

It is with great pleasure that we devote a double issue of the Noxious Times to Weed Management Areas in California. I believe WMAs have been the most encouraging thing to happen to noxious weed control in the past 5 years. Weed control programs and priorities are generally best set at the local level and we have seen an explosion of activity and energy throughout the state to deal with the impact and spread of noxious and invasive weeds.

Many of the WMAs started up before there was any statewide program, encouragement or funding. It is these early adopters who demonstrated the power of local, coordinated action and provided the models for the State Legislature to evaluate and eventually fund through Senate Bill 1740.

It is necessary that we sustain and enhance these cooperative and regional partnerships. Each WMA has pioneered new and innovative ways to run regional control programs, do effective education and outreach, and map and prioritize weed infestations. Any WMA can look to its neighbors for examples of effective programs and innovative campaigns to achieve strategic WMA goals. The Annual Statewide WMA Meeting on September 23-25 this year will focus on WMA success stories and overcoming WMA challenges. It will be a meeting primarily of dialog amongst WMA participants from around the state. (see page 20) ❖

Noxious Times is a publication of the California Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee. The committee was formed in 1995 when 14 federal, state, and county agencies came together under a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate the management of noxious weeds. The committee's mission is to facilitate, promote, and coordinate the establishment of an Integrated Pest Management partnership between public and private land managers toward the eradication and control of noxious weeds on federal and state lands and on private lands adjacent to public lands.

The *Noxious Times* newsletter intends to help the committee achieve its goals of coordination and exchange of information by providing land managers throughout the state with information on weed control efforts, news, and successes.

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If you have a colleague whose name you would like to add to our mailing list, please send mailing information to the address above.

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to form local WMAs and aggressively control high priority weed infestations. WMAs create a mechanism for landowners, land managers (private, city, county, state and federal), special districts, and the public to combine their actions to control noxious weed problems they hold in common. These are partnerships for a better environment.

This is an action-oriented program, focusing on on-the-ground control. Although mapping, planning and education are critical to the long-term success of the WMAs, these activities are secondary with respect to attacking high-priority weed infestations now. The chart below illustrates the relative allocations to WMA activities for the next two years.

Upon completion of the first full year of statewide funding from Senate Bill 1740, this pilot program has rapidly advanced the activities and capabilities of these locally led weed management groups. The program is being set up to achieve permanent and lasting results. Projects are carried out with clear objectives and are monitored for treatment success. CDFA implements an intensive program to coordinate, train and evaluate WMAs throughout the state. CDFA's Statewide WMA Coordinator works with CDFA district personnel to provide training in control methodology, monitoring, strategic planning, mapping and weed education.

WMAs are not a set of individual county programs, but rather are a linked network of highly effective groups, which are working in cooperation to solve a rapidly spreading statewide problem, which does not recognize borders or fences.

WMA's are integrated with CDFA's core noxious, invasive weed programs, which include the Weed and Vertebrate Program, the Hydrilla Eradication Program, and the Biological Control Program. These programs are complementary to the activities of the WMA programs and are involved at all levels of WMA activities. These noxious weed programs are conducted in cooperation with the county agricultural commissioners, federal, and state agencies as well as with various entities such as private agricultural organizations and resource conservation groups. The noxious weed programs are a part of the Department's overall pest prevention system, which includes education, pest exclusion, detection, and eradication/suppression. ❖

2001 WMA Highlights

•The number of countywide WMAs in California has grown from seven in early 1998 to 45 in 2001. The groups cover 54 out of 58 counties in the state.

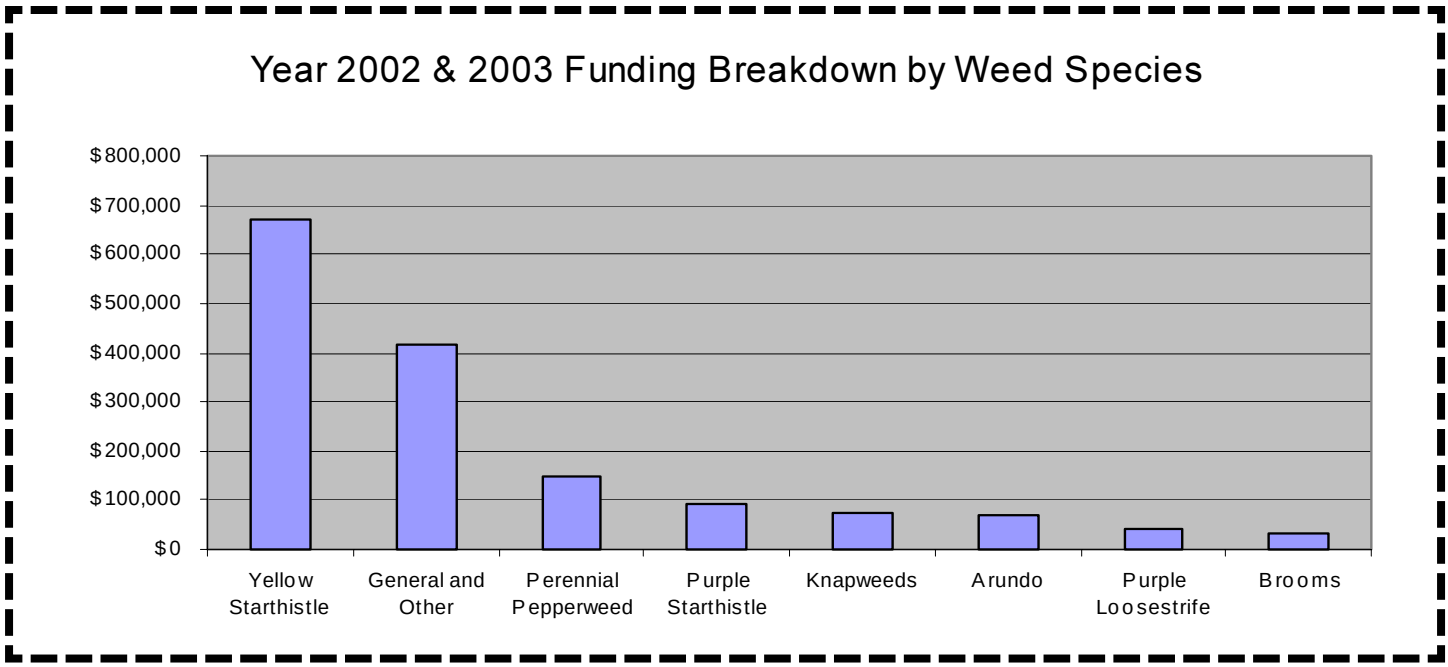
•Over 2009 individuals attended regular WMA meetings throughout California in 2001. New local partnerships have been created among public agencies, private landowners, agriculturalists and conservationists.

•An estimated 29,000 landowners and citizens have participated in noxious and invasive weed education events statewide.

•Over $1,360,000 has been distributed to 42 WMAs covering 53 counties, resulting in over 13,517 acres of high priority weed infestations treated under this program in 2001. Most sites had close to 90 percent control. Additionally, at over 140 sites, 100 percent of targeted weeds were eradicated from the site and are not expected to return.

•This state seed money has been matched locally by a total of $3,021,342 of "in-kind" resources (donated equipment or services) and matching cash dollars. Of these resources, $756,034 is direct cash matches by county government and outside grants.

•On September 24 and 25, 2001, 152 WMA members attended the third Annual Statewide WMA Meeting in Woodland, California for training, exchange of information, to hear panels on WMA success stories, and to network with WMAs throughout the state.



WMA UPDATE: DESCRIPTION

From Modoc to San Diego counties, Weed Management Areas have tackled a variety of weeds in a wide range of environments and levels of infestation. The following is a summary of some of the goals and projects of WMAs throughout the state.

ALAMEDA/CONTRA COSTA

Vince Guise (925) 646-5250

The Alameda/Contra Costa WMA's goal is to restore watershed areas and infested lands to a healthy and productive condition for their intended use. Since the advent of the WMA, support for weed management among private landholders, local cities and public lands has been elevated to a new level. Utilizing ecologically sound and integrated approaches, the Alameda/Contra Costa WMA manages and controls Department-rated noxious weeds and other invasive, nonnative plants. During 2001, projects have been conducted to detect and control invasive weeds, map their distribution and educate landowners, land stewards and the general public about the threats weeds pose. Both counties coordinated and offered cost-share programs with landowners to control yellow starthistle. Student interns from a local community college helped to accomplish weed mapping and its entry into a GIS format for mapping and data sharing. Public outreach was successfully achieved through both counties' fair displays, a cooperative field workshop, a growers' meeting, and a series of PowerPoint presentations to local stakeholders and interested groups.

AMADOR

Mike Boitano (209) 223-6481

The goal of the Amador Weed Advisory Group (AWAG) is to collaboratively perform integrated weed management actions specified in the AWAG Strategic Plan using an Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP). During 2001, AWAG started a noxious weed education and control program throughout Amador County. Test plots, a noxious weed workshop, and a countywide weed tour were instigated to help educate the public. AWAG also sponsored a noxious weed window display at the Amador County Fair to further public outreach. AWAG initiated a yellow starthistle control cost share program, inviting all interested parties to join the program. Time and effort was spent on evaluating and mapping each area in order to prepare properties for treatment in February 2002. AWAG also mapped *Ailanthus* sites around the county for treatment programs beginning in January 2002. In cooperation with AWAG, the California Department of Transportation is treating yellow starthistle on an ever-increasing amount of the roadside rights-of-way. In addition, East Bay Municipal Utilities District has been mapping noxious weeds and establishing control programs on their land. Finally, Amador County has been treating yellow starthistle along county roadsides.

BUTTE

Richard Price (530) 538-7381

The Butte County WMA was founded in 1999 and has since established a coordinated effort between countywide organizations involved in overlapping weed control projects. During 2001, most control and eradication efforts have been concentrated on prioritized noxious species documented in the strategic weed control plan. The Butte County program supports community education, which focuses on noxious weed issues. As a result of the Butte County WMA endeavors, a GIS digital weed mapping system was implemented by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. A GIS digital map and database were created for all recorded "A" and "B" rated weeds in the county, thereby consolidating Butte County's historical and current weed database. A GPS confirmation survey was conducted and integrated into this GIS database. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office staff continues to improve their knowledge and utilization of the GIS/GPS systems, applying them to related pest management issues. During 2001, a noxious weed identification and WMA public information brochure was written and produced. Biocontrol efforts have also been well publicized throughout the county. Furthermore, funding has allowed for the success of three of the county's weed control projects.

CALAVERAS

Marian Chambers (209) 533-5691

The goal of the Calaveras County WMA is to reduce the amount of public and private land infested with yellow starthistle. The County has worked with private landowners to offer financial incentives for weed control. Thirty landowners are participating in the rebate program, managing a total of 3,300 acres. This treatment program has significantly reduced the amount of yellow starthistle infesting rangeland in Calaveras County.

COLUSA/GLENN/TEHAMA

Jean Miller (530) 934-6501

During 2001, the process of locating and mapping existing weed populations led to the discovery of new weed infestations. As a result of expanded public education, landowners were notified of new programs. Consequently, more weed infestations were discovered and targeted for control and management. Throughout the year, priority noxious weeds were managed with herbicides in efforts to maintain the productivity and value of cropland and rangeland. New GPS equipment has enabled the WMA to survey for noxious weeds and plan long-term strategies. Funding has provided several benefits for the Colusa, Glenn, and Tehama County WMA including an overall increase in landowner use of property and rangeland, the improvement of the historical value of a pioneer cemetery, a reduction in "A" and "B" rated noxious weed populations, and the increase and/or maintenance of the biodiversity of the counties.

EL DORADO

Wendy West (530) 621-5526

The goals of the El Dorado WMA include educating landowners and the general public about the importance of the exclusion and control of noxious weeds, identifying and mapping key weed species infestations, and cooperatively planning and funding projects to control specific weed infestations and/or species within the county. During 2001, yellow starthistle control workshops and the Herbicide Cost-Share Program were expedited. As a result, landowners were successfully educated about the variety of

S AND COST-SHARE PROJECTS

techniques available and the proper timing necessary for adequate yellow starthistle control. The El Dorado WMA is currently publishing a yellow starthistle control and management evaluation and planning guide for landowners. The County's programs continue to emphasize the importance of four components: 1) using integrated pest management techniques; 2) planning for three to five years of site treatment and monitoring; 3) emphasizing the importance of revegetation in disturbed areas as part of a general control plan; and 4) taking action to control the yellow starthistle, especially in outlying areas to prevent further spread into the Sierra.

FRESNO/MADERA/MARIPOSA

Joanna Clines (559) 877-2218 x 3150

The goals of the Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa Counties Weed Management Area (WMA) are to fight "leading edge" weed spread, and to educate and involve the public in weed issues and eradication. In 2001, the Fresno, Madera, Mariposa Counties WMA made great strides in weed management. With increased cooperation, communication, and coordination among the many agencies and organizations in the three-counties, WMA participants educated the public through newspaper articles, public meetings, weed education presentations, and the distribution of over 4,000 brochures at public contact points such as Forest Service and California Department of Forestry offices, Farm Advisor's offices, schools, fairs, and public events. The WMA surveyed and mapped 9,418 miles of county roads, and over 68,000 acres of other property for noxious weeds, and treated approximately 665 acres of weeds in 2001. The WMA assisted landowners in managing weeds on their land through the successful implementation of a cooperative spray program that treated 41 acres of yellow starthistle on 14 properties. WMA participants discovered a 300 plus acre infestation of medusahead and have formed an effective coalition to combat it. The WMA received approximately $93,000 of in-kind funding to achieve these accomplishments.

HUMBOLDT

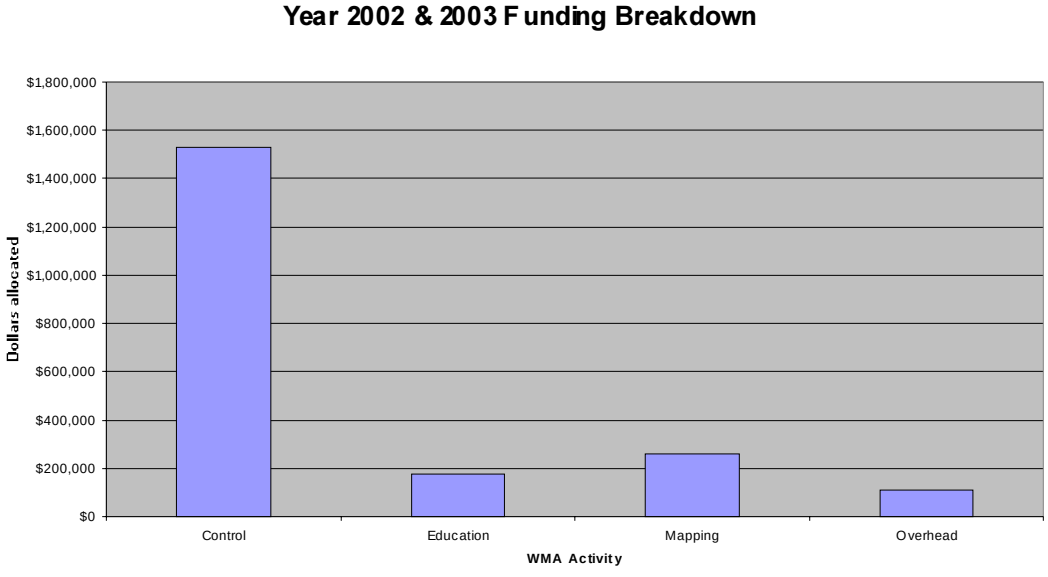
Lisa Hoover (707) 441-3612

The Humboldt County WMA plans to advance land stewardship practices, public awareness, integrated pest management, and the knowledge and skills necessary to manage invasive weeds. During 2001, the Humboldt County WMA continued the detection, mapping, and control of weed populations throughout the county's diverse habitats. Using GIS, the Humboldt County WMA continued to add newly-discovered weed populations to their mapping database and countywide invasive weed map. During 2001, priority weed "leading edges" were identified and mapped, while 12,000 miles of county roadsides were mapped and inventoried for noxious weeds. In particular, the extent of one of the two populations of Capeweed (Department "A" rated species) was mapped for analysis on private land using GPS and GIS technology. Dyer's woad, diffuse knapweed, spotted knapweed, tansy ragwort, purple loosestrife, and yellow starthistle were also targeted throughout the county. Humboldt County's control efforts have been very successful in reaching the media. The purple loosestrife project received heightened media attention, while County and State agencies developed greater interest in cooperative management. In other weed related issues, Humboldt County WMA's management and treatment of yellow bush lupine was successful in protecting the habitats of several endangered species. Proudly, Humboldt County generated a significant in-lieu funding source for WMA projects. The WMA intends to develop a baseline map that portrays the extent of noxious weeds by species for the county, identifying "leading edges" and outlying populations of weeds. The WMA plans to raise awareness about noxious weed issues by increasing public outreach programs and community-wide sponsored events for private landowners, nurseries, and landscaping companies. In the future, the Humboldt County WMA will continue to solicit funding from other grant sources and in-kind support.

IMPERIAL

Connie Valenzuela (760) 482-4314

The goals of the Imperial County WMA are: 1) to work cooperatively to prevent and



control noxious weeds in order to increase the profitability of cropland and rangeland; 2) to decrease the cost of roadside, park, and waterway maintenance; 3) to reduce the fire hazard and the cost of fire control in the county; and 4) to protect and enhance the biodiversity of native plant and animal communities. During 2001, the Imperial County WMA was officially formed, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed and approved, and a Strategic Plan was written. The Imperial County WMA has since focused on public education, survey and mapping of weed infestations, and the control of weeds including puncturevine, johnsongrass, saltcedar, and all A-rated weeds discovered. In addition, weed management pamphlets were created, printed, and distributed for public education purposes. Survey work was completed and data was entered in MapInfoÔ to incorporate into distribution maps. Control work was performed on johnsongrass, puncturevine, and camelthorn. The formation of the WMA has facilitated the cooperation of several agencies that now share resources, knowledge, and skills to work together to reduce noxious weed proliferation throughout the county.

INYO/MONO

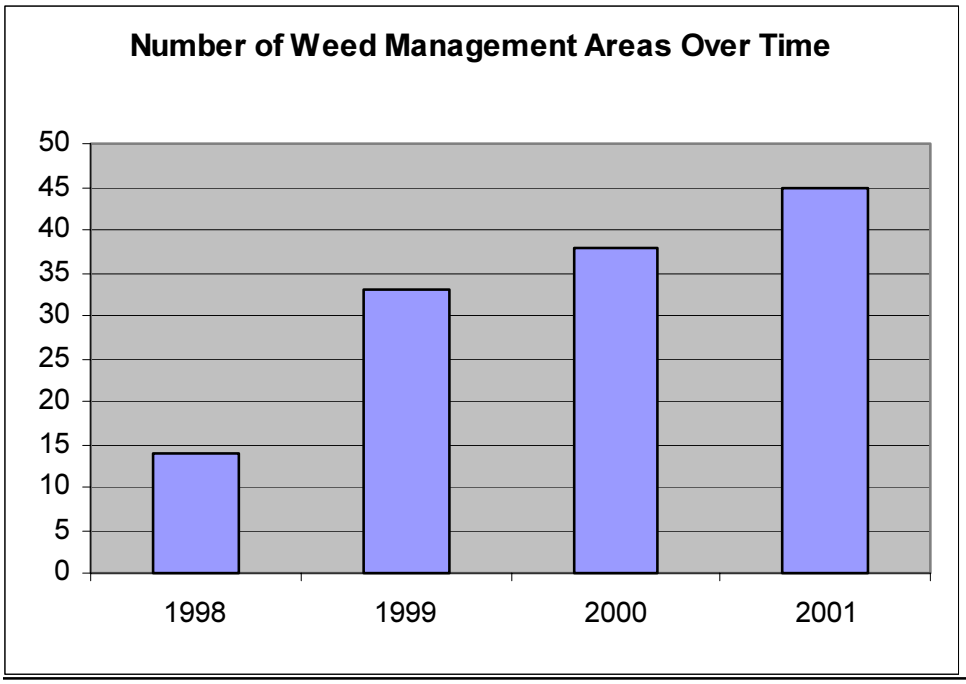
George Milovich (760) 873-7860

During 2001, the Eastern Sierra WMA, composed of Inyo and Mono Counties, has targeted selected noxious and invasive weeds including perennial pepperweed, Canada and Scotch thistles, Russian knapweed, yellow starthistle, puncturevine, salt cedar, halogeton, Dalmatian toadflax, camelthorn, and spotted knapweed. In 2001, two new salt cedar biocontrol beetles have joined other agents previously established. Experimental sites were established and continually monitored. Mapping, utilizing hand held GPS equipment, has replaced time consuming, inconsistent and inaccurate manual mapping. The data obtained with these GPS units was downloaded into GIS software, where it was edited and layered onto maps. Effort is now being made to collect comprehensive and accurate data since many of the weed populations had not been previously surveyed. In addition to a combined 50 percent of noxious weed populations, approximately 90 percent of known perennial pepperweed sites were catalogued last year. Each of these completed tasks has not only benefited multiple species, but has led to improved and revised noxious weed management practices. The Eastern Sierra WMA has achieved effective weed control, management, and outreach goals for 205,000 acres of land in the Eastern Sierra.

KERN

David Moore (661) 868-6300

The Kern WMA represents a broad group of participants who have worked hard to develop an integrated approach to noxious weed control and management. The Kern WMA faces the problem that it is located at the leading edge of the statewide yellow starthistle infestation. However, the Kern WMA is proud of the progress attained in controlling and managing the spread of this noxious weed. Not only has successful roadside control halted the path of yellow starthistle spread, Kern WMA has demonstrated to adjacent private landowners that successful control is feasible. Last year, the Kern WMA coordinated approach to noxious weed control had attracted several significant grants, new county funding, new agency funding, and participation from over 100 private landowners. In Kern County, there is a new understanding of the danger of this "explosion in slow motion."



KINGS

Les Wright (559) 582-3211 x2830

During 2001, the summer left many treatment areas excessively dry. Therefore, decisions were made against the initiation of any control until the conditions improved. Kings County representatives are in the process of establishing the formal WMA.

LOS ANGELES

Ray Smith (626) 450-7445

Goals for the Los Angeles County WMA include: 1) to create a regional pool of expertise to help interested parties control and manage invasive weeds; 2) to create a database using GPS, GIS, and other methods to plot, delimit, or otherwise track known and future infestations of invasive weeds; and 3) to educate the public about control, prevention, and further introduction and spread of invasive weeds and their impacts on biodiversity. The WMA has proved to be a valuable asset to the county as actions and efforts have been initiated on weed management and control issues. During 2001, the WMA created and adopted their Memorandum of Understanding. In addition, mapping began for Geraldton Carnation spurge, and spotted knapweed was discovered, treated, and controlled, Team Arundo-Angeles was reformed, and an educational brochure was developed.

MARIN/SONOMA

Amanda Stephens (415) 499-6700

The major goal of the Marin/Sonoma WMA is to remove noxious weeds, specifically in leading edge and outlying populations. Due to endangered species populations in many locations, chemical treatment was not an option for the Marin/Sonoma WMA. Instead, the Marin/Sonoma WMA hired a hand-pulling weed crew to remove weeds in five leading edge population areas. The crew removed a total of 40 acres of distaff thistle and purple starthistle in each location. In addition, the Marin/Sonoma WMA manually mapped all roads in Marin and Sonoma counties for distaff thistle and purple starthistle. The Marin/Sonoma WMA produced a noxious weed-coloring book and subsequently distributed it to 400 school children at the local Farm Day. The Marin/Sonoma WMA also held three field days, a weed tour for noxious weed identification, distaff thistle hand-removal day, and a weed identification and pesticide calibration workshop.

MODOC

Joe Moreo (530) 233-6401

The goal of the Modoc WMA is to prevent new weed species from entering and establishing in the county. The WMA plans to accomplish their goal through early detection and eradication, curtailing the spread of existing populations, providing noxious weed education to public and private parties, and continuing to recruit partners with interest in noxious weed control within the county. During 2001, the Modoc WMA was able to treat 100 percent of the detected yellow starthistle and tall whitetop infestations in the Surprise Valley and Alturas areas.

Airboat in Butte county used for purple loosestrife treatment.

MONTEREY

Bob Roach (831) 759-7379

The goals of the Monterey County War-On-Weeds Partnership are to: 1) increase the profitability and value of cropland and rangeland; 2) decrease the costs of roadside, park, and waterway maintenance; 3) reduce fire hazard and fire control costs; and 4) protect and enhance the biodiversity of Monterey County ecosystems. During 2001, the greatest accomplishment has been to generate new momentum and increased enthusiasm for the control, management and eradication of invasive and noxious weeds. As a result of outreach, a larger interest network has developed where ideas, control methods, and successes are shared. Through this network, they have educated themselves and others on invasive and noxious weed issues within the county. Additionally, Monterey County has purchased a new GPS device and has mapped and inventoried many of the serious weed infestations.

Helicopter on truck, Alameda/Contra Costa WMA

PLACER/NEVADA

Eric Gunderson (530) 273-2648

During 2001, the Placer/Nevada WMA organized a yellow starthistle hand-pull day. Approximately one acre of yellow starthistle was successfully pulled by 20 people in an area near the American River Canyon east of Forest Hill. In June, the Placer/Nevada WMA held the Boca Weed Day in Nevada County. Thirty-five people volunteered their time to hand-pull musk thistle. In August 2001, two Placer County employees sprayed tall whitetop along Interstate-80 from Colfax to Donner Summit.

PLUMAS/SIERRA

Debbie Rexroth (530) 283-6365

The Plumas/Sierra WMA coordinates activities necessary for the prevention and control of noxious weeds in Plumas and Sierra Counties. During 2001, activities focused on the prevention and expansion of noxious weed populations. Public education and outreach were also part of the WMA prevention program. As a result of public education, more people now understand the threat posed by noxious weeds. In addition, noxious weeds were controlled and managed in the counties by spraying, mowing, and hand pulling. The Plumas/Sierra WMA has a growing database of noxious weed occurrence sites, as well as a database of those sites that remain pristine. Last year, the cooperation and trust between private landowners and different government agencies continued to develop and strengthen.

SACRAMENTO

Vince Nyvall (916) 875-6603

The Sacramento WMA goals are to maintain and increase the profitability and value of cropland and rangeland, maximize the effectiveness of vegetative management costs of roadside, park, and waterway maintenance, reduce fire hazard and fire control costs in the county, protect and enhance the native biodiversity of Sacramento County ecosystems, and

enhance the recreation experience throughout the county. To accomplish this, supporters and cooperators will seek to combine resources, priorities and strategies into a unified front, facilitate greater countywide coordination, cooperation, and action to successfully arrest the spread of noxious and/or invasive weeds and help restore weed-infested lands to a more healthy and productive condition, and heighten public awareness of the problems associated with the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. The WMA was able to put together a Memorandum of Understanding and start a couple of small projects that are still in the works.

SAN BENITO

Ron Ross (831) 637-5344

The goal of the San Benito WMA is to protect the county's environment and agriculture by stopping or slowing the spread of noxious weeds into pristine regions. The San Benito WMA intends to inventory noxious weed populations and identify those weed populations that could be eradicated or managed. Upon the completion of inventory, the San Benito WMA also intends to institute weed control programs where feasible. During 2001, the WMA surveyed and inventoried the extent of particular noxious weeds in San Benito County. In the future, the San Benito WMA plans to analyze the data and begin control and management work on four noxious weeds in critical locations.

SAN DIEGO

Bill Winans (858) 694-2777

The San Diego WMA spent much of 2001 controlling perennial pepperweed infestations, treating a total of 200 hundred acres. Pepperweed is now known to occur in nine locations within San Diego County. The members of the San Diego WMA are striving to prevent pepperweed from spreading into many uninfested, pristine, and sensitive watersheds within the county. The San Diego WMA is planning for several years of follow-up treatments to ensure complete control in these areas. Stakeholder support and contributions come from land management agencies, conservation organizations, private property owners, and industry associations.

SAN JOAQUIN/MERCED/STANISLAUS

Gary Stockell (209) 468-3300

During 2001, the Northern San Joaquin Valley WMA composed of Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties, focused efforts on integrated management of yellow starthistle on public rights-of-way. Last year, the Northern San Joaquin Valley WMA educated the public about weed issues, purchased necessary equipment for weed management, conducted a first-year survey of the yellow starthistle infestation on public roads, and further augmented yellow starthistle herbicide control programs already existing within the three counties. Completed public roadside surveys of yellow starthistle will be used to coordinate roadside spray activities by public agencies in 2002. The 2002 projects will continue to focus on yellow starthistle while expanding efforts to control the weed on other public and private lands.

Yellow Starthistle is one of the most prevalent and problematic weeds in California

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Marc Lea (805) 681-5600

The San Luis Obispo County WMA works hard to educate residents about issues and negative economic and ecological impacts surrounding noxious weeds. During 2001, the San Luis Obispo County WMA produced a 16 panel, full-color brochure describing weeds found in the county. Nearly 3,000 copies of the brochure were distributed with assistance from WMA members and the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau. In addition, the San Luis Obispo County WMA plans to map, prioritize, and control the county's noxious weeds and critical infestations. Control and identification projects have been implemented for many weeds, including yellow starthistle and *Arundo donax*, two of the highest priority weeds. In efforts to prevent further spread of yellow starthistle, the San Luis Obispo County WMA is also working to control leading edge and outlier populations. The *Arundo* control program has also been continued in the riparian areas of the Chorro Creek watershed, which flows into Morro Bay estuary.

SAN MATEO

Gail Raabe (650) 363-4700

During 2001, the San Mateo County WMA finalized their strategic plan and Memorandum of Understanding. The WMA has obtained a baseline inventory of existing maps for locations of noxious and invasive weeds within the county. The inventory includes descriptions of the quality and format of existing geographic data, identification of data gaps, and information on agency/organization plans for future weed inventory and mapping. The WMA plans to create a countywide GIS database for target noxious weeds, combining all existing geographic data with a repository for ongoing data acquisition, while facilitating increased use of GPS by organization staff and the general public in mapping infestations. In addition, the San Mateo County WMA plans to coordinate a working group consisting of representatives of major land-managing organizations in the county.

The San Mateo County WMA has produced and widely distributed 3,000 brochures featuring the priority weeds in the county and key contacts for information. Other outreach projects have included the

production of a portable display describing the WMA, local weeds of concern, and control projects of local groups in San Mateo County.

A number of weed control projects are planned for the future. Collaborative projects include hiring work crews to remove an isolated population of gorse and a variety of brooms from roadways. A project on the south coast of San Mateo County will concentrate on removing all outlying pampas grass populations on both public and private lands. Funding for a cost-share program will provide for the purchase of clopyralid, mowing equipment, and other treatments as appropriate for yellow starthistle management. Another project will provide seed money to pay for equipment used to remove one-half acre of *Eucalyptus globulus*.

Tamarisk infestation in the Eastern Sierra WMA. This invasive weed from Eurasia drastically changes the environment, specifically by changing groundwater availability (can transpire 200 gallons per plant per day, often drying up ponds and streams), soil chemistry, fire frequency, plant community compositions, and native wildlife diversity.

This display board is used to educate the public about San Mateo's WMA and its projects

SANTA BARBARA

David Chang (805) 681-5600

The 2001 goals of the Santa Barbara County WMA included: 1) creating a coalition of government agencies, public and private special interest groups, and individuals interested in controlling invasive, nonnative weeds; 2) successfully conducting noxious weed control projects and educational seminars; and 3) mapping noxious weeds. Although very successful, weed population mapping was not fully completed during 2001. A Memorandum of Understanding and strategic plan were drafted. The Santa Barbara County WMA collaborated with the local chapter of the Audubon Society to control three acres of pampas grass around a small farm, benefiting both the farm and the adjoining Goleta Slough. A weed management workshop was well received by 103 attendees while increasing public awareness of noxious weed issues and control efforts. A map of yellow starthistle biocontrol nursery sites was created. The map will assist in both the distribution and protection of the nursery sites from damage by construction, grazing, weed control, and fire protection activities. Throughout the county, naturalists, farmers, landscape managers, botanists, biologists, habitat restoration groups, gardener groups, and environmental groups have been reporting locations of noxious weeds, requesting speakers, asking about methods of control, and collaborating on obtaining grant money.

SANTA CLARA

Eric Wylde (408) 779-0681

During 2001, the Santa Clara County WMA promoted integrated management strategies by way of educational meetings, workshops, and the production and distribution of a noxious weed brochure. Integrated weed management projects funded through the Noxious Weed Management Account were also initiated. Currently, the Santa Clara County WMA is focused on a project involving the successful detection and control of *Dittrichia graveolens*. The Santa Clara County WMA sponsors technical and educational opportunities, maps and inventories county noxious weed infestations, establishes local research and demonstration projects, and prepares educational information. The Santa Clara County WMA plans to apply for grant funding for education, research, and control projects concerning the integrated management of noxious weeds. These projects will improve recreational value, enhance watershed quality, and expand agricultural opportunities for infested county land.

SANTA CRUZ

MaryLou Nicoletti (831) 763-8080

The Santa Cruz WMA was established in 2001. The Santa Cruz WMA intends to preserve, restore, and enhance the county's natural biodiversity and environment while aiding in agricultural productivity within the county. The WMA is educating the public about the harm caused by noxious weeds. In addition, they are encouraging volunteer citizen groups to act locally to control and/or eradicate threatening weed populations. During 2001, the Santa Cruz WMA produced a full-color educational pamphlet on yellow

starthistle management and control. In addition, the WMA supervised expenditure of funds from two grants for weed control on a private ranch and a state ecological reserve and purchased two GPS units.

SISKIYOU

Pat Griffin (530) 841-4025

The Siskiyou County WMA plans to: 1) increase the value and productivity of recreational lands, public lands, cropland, rangeland and forest; 2) decrease the cost of roadside, park, and waterway maintenance; 3) reduce fire hazard and fire control costs; 4) protect the biodiversity of native ecosystems, while excluding and preventing the establishment of new county and statewide noxious weed populations; and 5) promote an educational, proactive, and enthusiastic awareness and approach to the integrated management of noxious weeds.

Siskiyou County has never had adequate resources to address weed issues. Large areas of "A" rated weeds were allowed to go untreated simply, because there was no funding or manpower to conduct proper treatment. Senate Bill 1740 funding has allowed the Siskiyou County WMA to hire a licensed pest control operator to treat large areas infested with knapweed and leafy spurge. This allowed county crews to make significant advancement in the control of other serious infestations. They have not eradicated large infestations of noxious weeds, but they have successfully reduced plant density and weed expansion. County crews were able to cover some infestations twice in this past season, which resulted in the control of late emerging plants. Since noxious weed control has become more of a priority in recent years, many agencies have become directly involved. With increased funding and agency cooperation, the Siskiyou County WMA is able to conduct more thorough control efforts as well as monitoring, mapping and survey activities. The implementation of the GIS has been a tremendous asset to the weed program. This system has allowed them to map, track and share data and information throughout the county and with other partner agencies of the WMA. The GIS program substantially enhances the efficiency of the county's exclusion, detection and eradication programs. One of the most important benefits to the county is the substantial decrease in plant density within some large infestations. The Hawkinsville area, in particular, had large fields that were a monoculture of squarrose knapweed. Many of these fields were on public land and open for vehicular travel. Reducing the plant density and almost eliminating flowering plants from this area certainly has reduced the expansion of this infestation. As ongoing treatment continues, the county has observed a decrease in knapweed and yellow starthistle and a resurgence of grasses including some native species such as bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*), and needle and thread (*Stipa comata*).

A Lassen County boy scout displays the fruit of his labor at a county weed pull day.

SOLANO

Jay Seslowe (707) 421-7465

The Solano County WMA was formed to coordinate activities and education necessary for the prevention and control of noxious and invasive weeds in Solano County. The emphasis will be on the prevention and control of noxious weeds through education as well as the promotion of healthy and sustainable ecosystems in Solano County. The Solano County WMA has been active since December of 2000. In particular, public outreach projects initiated in 2000/01 include the creation of an informative brochure to inform the public about management of terrestrial and aquatic weeds. In addition, an information kiosk was purchased to inform the public about the ongoing yellow starthistle control project. The Solano County WMA also assisted in the payment for a pilot project to reduce spread of yellow starthistle, purple starthistle and artichoke thistle to a property leased from the City of Benicia. In related management projects, clopyralid was applied on 600 acres of the leased property and 1.5 acres of *Arundo donax* was treated with glyphosate. Following this treatment, 65 one-ton truckloads of *Arundo* were manually removed and burned. The Solano County WMA anticipates that further pesticide treatments and manual work will be performed. Finally, progress began on a demonstration project at Rush Ranch, a 2,070-acre open space that is part of the Solano County Land Trust.

TRINITY

Susan Erwin (530) 623-1753

The major accomplishments of the Trinity County Weed Management Cooperative in 2001 included final development and approval of a Memorandum of Understanding and Strategic Plan, treatment of several noxious weed populations including several new populations in areas geographically disjunct from the dominant range of individual populations, and compilation of a weed atlas with locations of known weed populations in the county. As a result of the above accomplishments, an awareness of the depth and scope of the noxious weed situation in Trinity County has been created.

On the control front, a letter was sent to private landowners who may be affected by

Manual removal of purple loosestrife in Humboldt County

the diffuse knapweed population on South Fork Mountain. Their involvement will insure the long-term success of this control project. Integrated Weed Management of Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa* and *C. diffusa*) South Fork Diffuse Knapweed Removal Project. During the final quarter of 2001, the Trinity County Resource Conservation District sent letters to all landowners on South Fork Mountain potentially impacted by the diffuse knapweed population. In addition to information about the cooperative project to contain diffuse knapweed to current population boundaries, an informational sheet was prepared discussing identification and biology of this noxious weed, as well as a reply postcard to participate in the control project. The District has received 22 postcards from interested landowners. A dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) control project was implemented during the first quarter.

Cooperative mapping efforts in this area have consisted mostly of planning for the 2002 field season since the majority of money in this area was rolled over into the second and third years of Senate Bill 1740 funding. The WMA participants have gone through the process of accessing current knowledge of weed populations in Trinity County. They found that there is not much information out there on weed populations except what the Department has for "A" rated weeds and what the Forest Service has mapped on their lands. Noxious Weeds to Watch in Trinity County is a brochure currently being printed.

TULARE

Joe Williams (559) 732-9163 x134

There are five goals of the Tulare County Weed Management Area: 1) to have cooperation and collaboration in shared funding, resources, personnel, equipment and management strategies among all the members of the WMA; 2) to combine resources to bring about effective prevention, management and eradication of designated weeds; 3) to increase public awareness and involvement in weed detection, prevention and eradication through education; 4) to prevent new weed infestations through inventory, detection, monitoring, and prevention; and 5) to exchange information between all WMA parties. This includes shared technical information, weed population locations, and control methods.

YOLO

Jenni King (530) 666-8140

The Yolo County WMA Mission Statement is "to promote and coordinate efforts toward the management and control of the county's noxious weeds through education and cooperation with landowners, agencies, organizations, and the general public." The Yolo County WMA's main goals include providing weed identification and control information to the public, mapping and inventorying weed populations throughout the county, and establishing and providing an infrastructure for funding weed control programs throughout the county.

In 2001, the Yolo County WMA successfully controlled Russian thistle along a two mile section of roadway and yellow starthistle along 10 miles of County Road and State highway, revegetated five acres of previously weed infested county roadside, distributed Yolo County brochures at local events, and further increased awareness of the WMA by advertising and recruiting private landowner's for the cost-share program. The Yolo County WMA has also spent time grant writing and developing the Yolo County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Sub-committee. The Yolo County WMA has seen increased cooperation between the members of the WMA. The local Resource Conservation District, County Agricultural Commissioner, and public works have shared time, equipment, expertise and data in order to successfully combine different jurisdictions to complete multi-agency projects. The relationships that have developed between these agencies have improved efficiency and effectiveness, reducing the cost of these projects where traditionally little communication existed.

YUBA/SUTTER

Paul Lake (530) 674-1461 x3

The major goal of the Yuba/Sutter Noxious Weeds Management Group is to continue to bring together the coalition of private and public parties who realize that weed control is a vital necessity in both natural and man-made landscapes. With major assistance from the respective Departments of Agriculture, aquatic and terrestrial weed control projects are underway and planned. Hundreds of miles of canals and drainage ditches criss-cross the Sacramento Valley. Vast resources are spent in these areas to manage aquatic weed infestations that ultimately create increased flooding potential and impact agricultural productivity. Terrestrial noxious weeds, including yellow starthistle, inhabit thousands of acres of rangeland in the area, impacting livestock production and continuing to threaten wildlife areas. Other weeds, including Scotch broom, infest forestlands consuming nutrients and moisture needed for proper tree growth and also create conditions conducive to catastrophic wildfires with subsequent water quality and fisheries concerns. The weed group will also continue its education effort with outreach to the general population, children and adults alike. This group believes that an informed public will lead to decreasing amounts of inadvertent pest distribution, such as the disposal of weedy aquarium plants and animals into local waterways. Topical materials have been distributed to libraries, schools, and nursery/pet shops and have been featured in educational displays at county fairs and other outings. ❖

WMA Supplemental Projects -

Of the total amount of money available to WMAs for cost share grants, $4.25 million, roughly 10 percent ($0.5 million) was earmarked for superior achievement awards based on the strength of the WMA group, their performance in Year 1999 through 2001 projects, and the exemplary nature of their supplemental proposal. The rating criteria below were developed in conjunction with the Senate Bill 1740 Oversight Committee and were used to rank proposals:

1. WMA met or exceeded its year 2000 work plan goals (50 points).
2. WMA received additional funding beyond Assembly Bill 1168/Senate Bill 1740 (10 points).
3. Use of integrated methods in proposed project (10 points).
4. Proposed supplemental project is "needs based" (10 points).
5. There is an education/outreach component to the proposed project (10 points).
6. There is a mapping component to the proposed project (10 points).

Over 29 counties applied for supplementary awards and the following counties ranked highest and were selected:

Alameda $15,000

Proposed projects are: 50/50 cost-share aerial application of Translineä herbicide to approximately 800 acres of privately owned pasture/rangeland to control purple starthistle. Map and control a small satellite infestation of barbed goatgrass on Camp Parks military base. Map and control a small satellite infestation of wavy-leaved gaura on private property. An educational field day will be held at the sites. A PowerPointä presentation will be developed and presented at local farm bureau and cattlemen's meetings.

Contra Costa $35,000

Identify both problem weeds and beneficial native plants within the project area. Train field workers in plant identification and techniques for dealing with weeds. Eradicate in the project area noxious weed species of particular concern in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties: yellow starthistle, Italian thistle, French broom, *Euphorbia oblongata*, cape ivy, and fennel. Preserve and encourage through natural reseeding the native flora present in the project area. Maintain wildfire safety and effective fuel breaks in the project area.

El Dorado $49,939

El Dorado County projects include perennial pepperweed eradication on Highway 50, yellow starthistle cost-share control program with small landowners, 50/50 cost-share program with area ranchers for the aerial application of herbicide for yellow starthistle control on rangelands, and a Site Advisor Program to follow up with phone surveys to landowners to determine the number of acres treated and percent controlled.

Incorporating mapping into the suppl criteria used to rank supplemental pr

Fresno $16,830

The Fresno County Supplemental Project involves mapping and control of yellow starthistle and other noxious weeds in the Arroyo Pasajero Creek Watershed. The project involves mapping and control first on 1,000 acres along Mineral Springs Road and later thought the entire 529-square mile watershed. A GPS class at West Hills College will be used to provide most of the mapping. Control will be an herbicide cost-share project with local landowners.

Humboldt $47,961

Humboldt County WMA proposes to map satellite populations of spotted knapweed and reduce the density of spotted knapweed over three years using a combination of manual plant removal and revegetation. Manual removal of invasive exotics, pampas grass and Scotch broom and revegetation with native plants will be accomplished by utilizing California Conservation Corps members. Aggressively containing and controlling the purple loosestrife infestations in Humboldt County in coordination with the Department, using primarily mechanical control methods.

Kern $50,000

Kern WMA projects will focus on cooperative cost-share control programs for herbicides and mechanical control of yellow starthistle, pepperweed, Arundo, tamarisk, and Russian knapweed. A yellow starthistle alternative method control program using mechanical control and other non-pesticidal methods will be implemented. The Kern County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer will survey and map roadside yellow

- Rewarding Accomplishment

starthistle infestations in the county using GPS.

Madera $16,060

The Madera County Supplemental Project consists of a cost-share control program for yellow starthistle, Italian thistle, St. Johnswort, bull thistle, Scotch broom, and Spanish broom. Controlling the further spread of yellow starthistle is one of the priorities of the project. The project will use a combination of mechanical and chemical methods to control the targeted weeds.

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Mariposa $17,051

In Mariposa County yellow starthistle, tocalote, black mustard, Himalayan blackberry, bull thistle, common mullein and Klamath weed will be mapped and controlled in McCauley Ranch in Yosemite National Park. All of the weed species will be mapped and the information stored in a GIS. The control methods will be mechanical because the infested area is on Park Service lands.

Sacramento Valley $50,000
Cooperative Agricultural Commissioners' Project
(El Dorado has lead role)

This project is a cooperative, interstate project that involves the State of Nevada, State of California agencies and counties working together to address the spread of weeds by agricultural shipments traveling via Highway 88 from Nevada to California. Participating California counties are Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Tuolumne, and various other San Joaquin Valley counties. Nevada has several noxious weeds that are widely spread over the state which are not of common occurrence in California. Many of these, such as spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, musk thistle, and Canada thistle, are very common in, and along the perimeter, of Nevada alfalfa hay fields.

San Diego $49,397

The San Diego project involves mapping and controlling yellow and purple starthistle populations in the county. The weeds will be mapped and controlled using both chemical and mechanical methods.

San Mateo $49,720

San Mateo County proposes a cooperative effort to eradicate pampas grass on 16,000 acres of land. Phase 1 of the project includes initial mapping of the populations and removal of outlying plants. Phase 2 involves removal of the major pampas grass infestations over two summers. Phase 3 is the continual elimination of resprouts. The supplemental grant will be combined with funding from numerous other private and public agencies. The project covers both public and private lands.

Santa Barbara $10,900

The City of Santa Barbara has made clean water a priority environmental goal. In addition to increasing water quality, enhancing and restoring native habitat is included in their Clean Water and Creek Restoration Plan. The removal of invasive nonnative vegetation, such as Arundo, is specifically mentioned as a "Restoration Action." Arundo infests public and private property within the Arroyo Burro Creek watershed. This supplemental project is a demonstration project to remove Arundo from Arroyo Burro Creek. Primary removal methods will be foliar spray and mowing/mulching.

Siskiyou $49,956

Siskiyou WMA is participating in the Tulelake Perennial Pepperweed Project. The project covers lands in Klamath, Modoc, and Siskiyou, Counties. The project will take place in the irrigation canal system, on private and federal land, and in the Department of Fish and Game Butte Valley Wildlife Area. The method of control implemented will be chemical.

Yolo $49,837

The Yolo County supplemental project consists of five projects: 1) Mapping and control project along Chickahominy Slough, which will be used for weed inventory and as a demonstration plot; 2) perennial pepperweed control along Highway 113 and other state highways in Yolo County; 3) California Northern Railroad weed control expansion, which will allow the right-of-way expansion of lands sprayed by the railroad; 4) small landowners cooperative weed control, which is a cooperative group of small landowners that will be controlling yellow starthistle and medusahead with chemical and mechanical treatments as well as controlled burns; and 5) traditional methods of managing nonnatives, which is the project that will use non-chemical methods and revegetation to showcase methods of traditionally controlling nonnatives. ❖

Lassen SWAT Leads Weed Education Effort

By Carolyn Gibbs, Lassen County WMA Chair

For the last few years, the **Lassen Special Weed Action Team (SWAT)** has been California's leader in educating the public about invasive weeds. They have consistently made education a high priority among their weed projects. Here are a few examples of their noxious weed education projects:

1. Lassen County Science Fair. Lassen SWAT has presented an award to a project that deals with weed science for the last three years. An example of this is the 5th grade class project that dealt with the germination rates of noxious weed seeds.

2. Weed reference materials were purchased and included in the donation to the libraries of the four county high schools as well as the County Library.

3. During Lassen County Weed Week, a successful Weed Pull Day has almost eliminated yellow starthistle from the campus of Lassen College.

4. Lassen High School science students worked with Lassen SWAT members to survey the Susan River for tall whitetop as part of the "Susan River and it's Tributaries Tall Whitetop Project".

5. Lassen County Children's Fair and the Lassen County Fair have had booths for noxious weed education. Several agencies from Lassen SWAT provided the labor to place the booth at 3 county fairs, Lassen, Modoc and Tri-Counties. These same displays were used at Cal EPPC Symposiums, an Ag in the Classroom Conference, CDFA WMA Meetings and in Washington DC for National Weed Week.

6. Lassen SWAT sent two representatives to the "Ag in the Classroom" Conference.

During Lassen County Weed Week Cub Scouts learn about yellow starthistle from a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Weed Warrior.

This 5th grade student is collecting tall whitetop (aka perennial pepperweed) stems for the class Science Fair project.

7. We have provided yearly "Walk, Talk and Pull" lectures for noxious weed education at the Susanville Historic Railroad Depot. This element is directed toward the county residences that use the local trail systems.

8. We also worked with several local school teachers to provide weed education. An example is Susie Ford's yellow starthistle bio-control project. Her students have collected baseline data at a yellow starthistle site and the students collected and released 100's of insects. Over several years the classes have continued to monitor the site.

9. Over 600 cloth bags containing invasive species literature have been distributed to California teachers.

10. Lassen SWAT has provided workshops for K-12 teachers. Workshop objectives include:

- •What are invasive species and why are they a problem.
- •How to incorporate the issues into their classroom curriculum.
- •How to identify the noxious weed species in their areas.
- •Provide lists of knowledgeable contacts in their respective areas.
- •Ideas about ways their students can help the invasive issue through Service Learning Projects.

11. Lassen SWAT sponsors an Adopt-A-Site program for local children's groups. 50' x 100' sites along the Susan River have been set aside for the students to use as an outdoor classroom. Noxious weed identification and control are just part of the project. We provide a resource person and will help with project design and implementation.

12. A continuing education class is provided through the Lassen County Agriculture Department and Lassen community College. ❖

For questions contact Carolyn Gibbs (530)252-5325

Eastern Sierra WMA Transformed by Senate Bill 1740

By George Milovich, Agricultural Commissioner, Inyo/Mono Counties

Often times the general public questions where tax monies are being spent, as they should, due to the many programs in state and local government. In the case of the Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area, we truly feel the citizens are getting their monies worth.

Due to grants and legislative actions such as AB 1740 and SB 1168, we in Inyo/Mono Counties, were able to turn a low profile, partially functional weed program into a comprehensive and highly effective one. With funds and hard effort, we were able to not only create a solid program to stop the spread of noxious weeds, but to also revitalize the many other agencies and groups that had the same goal.

A few examples worth noting:

- The City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power, who leases several thousand acres of prime agriculture land, became more active in aggressively attacking several exotic species that have encroached on their lands, including: pepperweed, knapweed, and Canada thistle.
- The Inyo County Water Department, already involved in a Tamarisk control program, became an integral component to our group.
- The Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Caltrans, and others increased their effectiveness due to our program.
- The Inyo/Mono Resource Conservation District increased its awareness efforts and also purchased equipment that could be rented for use by area growers.
- The Growers and ranchers themselves, i.e., the Inyo/Mono Cattlemens' Association, contributed time and material to detect and eradicate outbreaks of several species including Scotch thistle, pepperweed, and knapweeds.

With these combined efforts, achievements exceeded our expectations.

Weed detection and eradication has not been our only focus. With the funding came:

- Public outreach to fairs, expositions, schools and clubs.
- A weed manual was published, brochures printed and the public was able to obtain a firm grasp of what we were doing.
- A converted icehouse now serves as a native seed storage bank. This seed was collected locally, and is now used to restore sites following eradication efforts.
- An intense mapping program is now underway throughout Inyo/Mono Counties' Agriculture Department and Inyo County Water Department. This will eventually lead to having all weed sites of the Eastern Sierra in Inyo/Mono Counties identified.

Of course, one of the most difficult aspects of noxious weed control is that of educating people in the understanding that this is not a job the you do once or twice and move on. Constant vigilance is imperative and without it we, or any other weed management area, could easily slip back to page one and loose all that has been gained over years of hard work and numerous dollars spent. With many species having seed viability in excess of 20 years, it is easy for a small infestation to take hold and be back to its former strength in only a few years.

In conclusion, these tasks that the Agricultural Commissioner's office has struggled with for years, begging and borrowing used equipment, patching and maintaining worn-out trucks, and trying to maintain a program with too little help finally came into its own with the funding that provided us with what was needed to perform a good job. The strong support of our two Boards of Supervisors, who recognized the urgency and provided funding and legislative lobbying, new personnel that focused on the task at hand, and the revitalizing of the many other agencies and groups, has made us a valuable tool in the war on exotic species.

The initial phase is complete but the weed war continues as we endeavor to persevere. ❖

El Dorado WMA Fights Invasives On Many Fronts

By Wendy West, El Dorado County Dept. of Agriculture

The El Dorado County Noxious Weeds Management Group (NWMG) was formed in 1998 to coordinate activities for the prevention and control of invasive weeds in El Dorado County. Over 25 organizations, landowners and agencies have been actively involved in planning and implementing weed control and educational projects. Funding for the projects has been provided by the California State Legislature via Assembly Bill 1168 and Senate Bill 1740. During 2000 and 2001, $70,000 in grant monies and $219,000 in-kind contributions from member organizations has been contributed to the group's efforts.

Educational efforts during 2001 reached over 1700 people at: 1) workshops on the "Control of Yellow Starthistle"; 2) weed identification workshops presented to "on the ground" crews including USFS staff, utility and road crews and 3) fairs and events via the Noxious Weed Information Booth.

Yellow starthistle control projects include:

- Rangeland Reclamation - Aerial application of Transline herbicide – 2700 acres through 2002.
- Yellow Starthistle Eradication Project/Cleveland Fire Area – 238 acres
- Partners include USFS, El Dorado County Department of Transportation, Sierra Pacific Industries and Caltrans.
- Site Advisor Program – A Pest Control Advisor meets with landowners to discuss control methods; 110 properties evaluated since 2000.
- Herbicide Cost Share Program – landowners receive Transline at 50% discount with grant program. In 2001, 490 acres controlled by 113 landowners. An additional 108 landowners participated in Spring 2002 and will be surveyed in August to determine the acres of Yellow Starthistle controlled.

Spotted knapweed infestation growing through Cleveland Fire debris

Eradication of Spotted knapweed in the Cleveland Fire area:

Spotted knapweed has invaded timberlands near the El Dorado National Forest in the Cleveland Fire area, which burned in 1992. An aggressive eradication program has been initiated which includes clearing fire debris to allow more effective treatment of seedlings covered in debris. Extensive surveying will also be completed throughout the Silver Fork Watershed to evaluate the extent of the infestations.

The original infestation most likely came from seed brought in on equipment utilized during fire suppression efforts. Three years ago, this highly invasive weed was found on Sierra Pacific Industries timberlands in the Silver Creek and Twenty-five Mile Canyon watersheds. Since 1999, hand-pulling, cutting and herbicide treatments have reduced the rate of spread and seed production on the known sites. Despite the control efforts the Spotted knapweed on the main site (20 acres) has not been eradicated, due to the heavy fire debris and steep terrain of the site.

The spotted knapweed eradication project for 2002 will include:

- Cutting, hand piling, and burning down woody debris, brush and lower tree limbs to increase access to target plants and seed bed (May-June 2002).
- Establish treatment zones that will provide flexibility in the use of control techniques, including herbicide treatments. Treatments will be conducted in June 2002.
- Delimitation and mapping of the known infestations and survey of the creek drainage (July 2002).
- Outreach and education efforts will include posting of signs on entry ways into and out of the project area and posting informational flyers at gathering places along Icehouse Road. Additional fencing and gates will also be added to the area, since unauthorized entry on the road area has possibly led to further spread of the weed seeds. (July-August 2002).
- Project grant funding will contribute $15,000 and in-kind, matching dollars will total $21,439.

Other accomplishments include:

1) control of Tall whitetop in the Tahoe Basin and along Highway 50 – over 100 sites; 2) control of Scotch broom at four sites in the county utilizing lopping and 3) control of Himalayan blackberries utilizing goats. ❖

For more information, contact Wendy West, (530) 621-5526

Kern WMA Makes Hard Earned Progress Over YST

By Chuck McCollough, Tehachapi Resource Conservation District

The Kern Weed Management Area (KWMA) is targeting several noxious weeds such as Perennial Pepperweed, Purple Loosestrife Russian Knapweed and Tamarisk, but the main thrust at this time is the Yellow Starthistle program conducted by the Tehachapi RCD. In fiscal year 2001-2002 State funds in the amount of $47,758 are being received from the California Department of Conservation, the CDFA (from AB 1168 and SB 1740), and Caltrans. Kern County, The City of Tehachapi, three local community service districts and a property owners' association have provided $36,109 and private property owners have paid $23,284 so far for this season's spray program. Major elements of the TRCD program are as follows:

Education and Outreach

- Since 1995 110 articles in local newspapers with most giving a contact phone number.
- Four workshops.
- Two Yellow Starthistle slides shown ahead of the movies in local four screen theater. One offers free identifier brochure in lobby.
- Identifier brochures available at several locations.
- A "how to do it" Weed Management Handbook and a Guide to Manual Removal are available.
- Yellow Starthistle Adopt-A-Road signs are constant reminder to passing motorists.
- Personal phone communication - days, nights and weekends.

Ed Duggan, President of the Tehachapi RCD, assists in post-spray Density Measurements on the Indian Hills Campground property near Tehachapi that was sprayed for YST in 2000, 2001, and 2002 by the Tehachapi RCD with the assistance of CDFA.

Mapping

- Extensive mapping since 1999 by volunteers (including high school students) and paid workers.
- Computer mapping program will produce layers showing YST occurrence, properties sprayed each year, degree of success and total success.

Spray Programs

- A commercial agricultural pest control operator (Sprayco LLC) provides licensing, insurance, contract labor, training, supervision and payroll services.
- TRCD owns a one ton flatbed truck with 800 gallon capacity, 24 feet of boom, a special roadside boom and 220 feet of spray hose; a Randell self propelled 300 gallon spray rig with booms and hoses and thanks to Honda R & D Americas, a quad ATV with 15 gallon spray unit with booms and hand hose. A John Deere Gator with 80 gallon tank rigged for spraying is rented part time from the local Bear Valley CSD.
- All infested roadsides in Kern County are sprayed with Transline in cooperation with the Kern County Ag Commissioner's office and the CDFA. State highways in the Tehachapi area are sprayed under a three year cooperative agreement with Caltrans.
- Local public agencies and private property owners are offered partially subsidized rates for spraying with Transline. Participants must sign a participation agreement and pay in advance.
- So far in 2002 there are 88 participants compared to 113 in 2001. A significant factor in the decrease are properties sprayed in prior years and now YST free.
- Three major recreation areas are nearing total eradication in this third year of spraying funded by CDFA from AB1168.
- As in the previous three years, a questionnaire will be sent to participants to evaluate the success of the program.

Manual Removal Program

- In 2001 two free man hours of manual removal were offered to all participants. Only 22 of about 100 eligible participants took advantage of the offer.
- Funding for 2002 does not allow for manual removal except in the Brite Creek Riparian Corridor Project funded under SB 1740/AB 1168.
- An attempt will be made to provide volunteer manual removal help to those that request it.

The decrease in Yellow Starthistle in the Tehachapi area, especially along roadsides, is striking. The City of Tehachapi this year passed an ordinance requiring specific abatement of YST. This will be a big step toward eradication in the City, but many properties in the surrounding county areas have not been brought into the program. This is especially true of absentee ownerships of vacant properties. This is going to be a long term effort which could easily continue for ten years or more. In addition to spraying infested roadsides throughout Kern County, a sizable program has developed in the cattle ranching area of Glennville, and the largest private property job this year was 84.5 acres in Lebec for the huge Tejon Ranch (and they have lots more YST).

The TRCD is currently attempting to raise funding to hire a full time program manager to take over from its worn out volunteers. The position will require a high energy self starter with plenty of dedication and management skills as well as the ability to tap funding sources to perpetuate an expanding and varied program portfolio as well as his or her job. Although funding is not yet assured, resumes may be sent to TRCD, attention Ed Duggan, President at 202 South Green Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561. ❖

Humboldt WMA Bands Together to Fight Weeds

By Lisa Hoover, Chair, Humboldt Weed Management Area

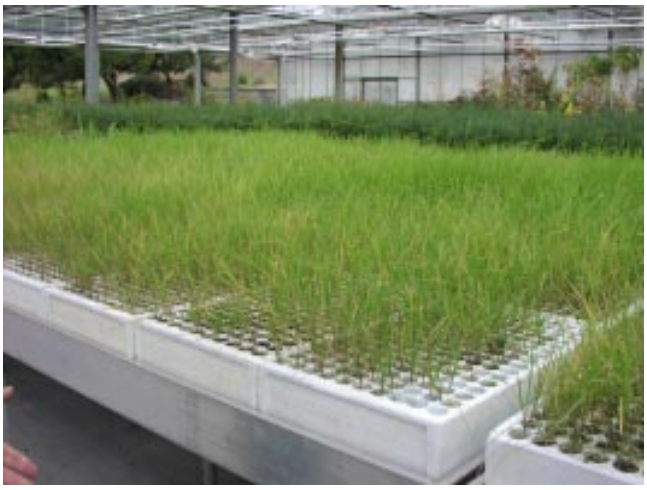
In 1998, three individuals sat in a meeting hall at the Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's office. We convened to present our respective stories about invasive plant concerns; misery loves company. For one member of the party speaking for the dune system of the Humboldt Bay area, control of invasive plants had been a long-standing practice due to the presence of Federally listed plant species and their habitat. Difficulties prevailed but all-in-all, progress was evident. For the other member who works directly with ranchers and farmers, thus a witness to the concerns of this community, he took the educational route in attempts to bring information about integrated treatment tools to a significant constituency of Humboldt County. Then there was me, Botanist for a million acre National Forest, privy to random information about invasive sitings, aware of their daunting presence on the southern-most end of one District, but basically not well-versed about the array of species and their extent on the Forest. Then and there marked the beginning of the Humboldt County Weed Management Area (WMA).

Purple loosestrife begins grip on Eel River

Invasive weed has near-exponential spreading capability

WEEDS

Media coverage for inventory and mapping of purple loosestrife along the Eel River


Growing out locally collected wild blue rye at Tsemeta Nursery in Hoopa California for a yellow starthistle integrated management study

With interests in education, inventory and mapping, and treatment in mind, we decided to take the message of invasive plant management in Humboldt County to a larger and broader audience. In 2000, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by 5 Federal agencies, 5 State agencies, 3 County entities, and 2 non-profit organizations. Through a BLM War-on-Weeds mini-grant and AB 1168 funds, the WMA developed and circulated a questionnaire to thousands of individuals and agencies representing the ranching/farming, forestry, governmental and environmental communities to assess the degree of invasive plant awareness, species composition, extent of the problem and forms of available data. In 2000, with a proclamation from the County Board of Supervisors in hand, we also held our first annual Weed Awareness Week.

As was the case with many WMAs in the state, things began to pick up the pace with the advent of SB 1740 funds. Systematic mapping efforts began and include the following stats:

- 600 miles of County and State roadside inventories (incl. "negative" data)
- 20 miles of inventory for purple loosestrife along the Eel River,
- 5 acres of a satellite population of capeweed on private ranchland.

With mentorship from Humboldt State University and Bureau of Land Management GIS specialists (Arcata Office), the WMA now has the sum of these inventories as well as the collation of information from other Federal agencies in spatial form.

In the realm of treatment it must be noted that unlike many other WMAs in the State, herbicide use on public lands (county, state, federal) is not generally practiced in Humboldt County. A county-wide ordinance prohibits herbicide use by the county and the Federal agencies within the WMA do not employ the use of herbicides on their respective lands. On public lands, the WMA's approach focuses on integrated non-chemical methods for treating invasive plants. In 2001, through SB 1740 funding, the WMA treated 106 acres (stats below were generated from our spatial database):

- 83 acres – yellow bush lupine
- 8 acres- pampas grass
- 5 acres –scotch broom

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- 4 acres -diffuse knapweed
- 2 acres- yellow starthistle
- 2 acres- purple loosestrife
- 2 acres- dyer's woad

Education elements included a display at the Humboldt County Fair, guest speaker addressing control methods for yellow starthistle and pampas grass at one of our biannual stakeholders meeting, and sponsorship of a workshop on *Spartina densiflora* in Humboldt Bay. Total number of individuals reached is estimated at 3000.

Our efforts in the coming years will stay on a similar course as our actions of the past year and include further mapping with GIS applications, monitoring of treated sites with retreatment as necessary, continued and new treatment projects on public and private lands, and educational activities surrounding the State's Weed Awareness Week.

As a WMA, one of our goals is to diversify the base of our constituency, working more closely with the public education sector and private sector in rural areas. Closer to town, we struggle with issues associated with the "urban-wildland interface" such as the spread of invasive landscaping plants into adjacent areas (eg. english ivy into the Sitka spruce forest of the State Parks). Part of our education emphasis will be to develop outreach strategies to address this issue. From our mapping efforts we have learned that managing the leading edges and satellite populations of invasive plants warrants increased partnerships with County departments, private landowners and Indian tribes.

Lastly, with all there is to do about this subject of invasive weeds management, it is easy to dilute, to spread too thin, perhaps even to give up. We have certainly faced this dilemma. Sounds so obvious but still often overlooked or appreciated is the requisite view of the whole and the necessary prioritization of where the WMA will pick its battles. A refrain from jurisdictional-based projects and a strategic plan that supports this perspective may be the best philosophy for any WMA to follow. ❖

Lisa D. Hoover, Forest Botanist, Six Rivers National Forest
Chair, Humboldt County WMA

Research Proposals Awarded Funding

As a part of the funding for SB 1740, there is $530,000 available for research contracts. In March of 2001, the Department requested proposals from qualified scientists to perform research on the biology, ecology, and management of noxious and invasive weeds. Four research topic areas were identified as targets, based on a survey conducted with the California Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee and priorities highlighted in the Weed Science Society of America report, "Future Research Directions for Weed Science." The topics were:

1. Impacts: Economic Analysis/Assessment and Ecological Impacts.
2. Integrated Weed Management: Refined Tools and Technology.
3. Restoration and Revegetation.
4. Other and General Categories.

A total of 16 research projects were received in response to the request for proposals. The proposals were reviewed and ranked based on a set of objective criteria by two review panels. The first panel, which consisted of professional scientists from throughout the state, assessed the proposals for scientific merit and technical feasibility. The second panel, the Range Management Advisory Committee of the California Board of Forestry (as mandated by law), assessed the degree to which the proposals needs were based and applied. Scores from the panels were combined and this resulted in the selection of the seven projects listed below. ❖

Research Proposals

Researcher & Amount	Project Title
Dr. Mark Eiswerth University of Nevada, Reno $89,407	Economic Losses from Yellow Starthistle in California and Applications to Potential Biological Invasions
Dr. Joseph DiTomaso University of California, Davis $79,385	Resistance of Restored Central Valley Grassland Communities to Yellow Starthistle Invasion
Dr. Jodie Holt University of California, Riverside $92,265	Prevention and Management of *Arundo donax* in Riparian Ecosystems
Dr. Wolfgang Pittroff University of California, Davis $99,330	Biocontrol Implications of the Toxicology of Yellow Starthistle in Sheep
Dr. Joseph DiTomaso University of California, Davis $79,605	Integrated Management of Medusahead and Other Noxious Annual Grasses and Restoration of Degraded Grassland to Native Species
Dr. David Spencer United States Dept. of Agriculture $54,560	Enhancing Yellow Starthistle Biological Control in the Field
Dr. Chuck Quimby United States Dept. of Agriculture $30,000	Yellow Starthistle Biological Control – Foreign Exploration

Upcoming Annual Weed Management Meeting

The Fourth Annual Statewide Weed Management Area Meeting is set for September 23-25 of this year at the Heidrick Ag History Center in Woodland. Building on feedback from last year's meeting, this year's meeting will focus on WMA success stories and overcoming WMA challenges. It will be a meeting primarily of dialog amongst WMA participants from around the state. Last year one of the most successful components was the regional breakout sessions in which neighboring WMAs shared their successes and mutual concerns. This year, these regional groups will have more time to congregate and pool their ideas and resources.

Since it was such a success last year, there will be another BBQ on Monday evening where meeting participants can get together to socialize and continue to share ideas. The final meeting schedule is not yet so keep an eye out for updates on this year's topics and speakers. Many participants voiced a desire to hear moe from other WMA coordinators, so this year we will try harder to do so. Remember, this meeting is a chance to share your stories with others who have mutual concerns; bring your success stories and your problems.

Some of last year's highlights included:

- Keynote Speaker Dr. Nelroy Jackson, National Invasive Species Council
- Information on receiving outside funding
- Education and Public Awareness
- A BBQ at the Stone Ranch
- Regional Group Breakouts
- Mapping and Planning
- Control Containment and Eradication Topics
  - New Tools
  - Restoration

This year there will be more opportunity for WMAs to share some of their innovative techniques for battling invasives and more chances to coordinate with other WMAs because, as we all know, weed infestations ignore county lines.

If you have any suggestions for this year's meeting, send an email to Steve Schoenig at sschoenig@cdfa.ca.gov. See you all in September. ❖

Steve Schoenig speaks at the annual WMA meeting in September of 2001 in Woodland.

NFWF PTI

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Inspection Service (APHIS)
- USDA-Forest Service (FS), and
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

To apply, please submit one original (1) and twenty-two (22) copies of a full proposal, using the form on Appendix A, by November 6, 2002. Send all application materials to:

Gabriela Chavarria
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
PTI RFP 2003
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036

For more information see webpage http://nfwf.org or contact Jackie Burson at 202-857-0166 or jackieburson@nfwf.org . ❖

SERCAL To Hold Ninth Annual Conference

California Society for Ecological Restoration Meets October 24-27, 2002

The California Society will hold its ninth annual meeting this October, from the 24th through the 27th at the North Tahoe Conference Center in Kings Beach, California. The theme for this year's meeting is "Restoration with a view: Sustaining Fragile Habitats." SERCAL is currently calling for abstracts for papers and posters to be presented at the conference. The topics for this year include:

Soil, Water Quality & Restoration in the Lake Tahoe Basin: Critical Links to the Future

Chair: Michael Hogan, Soil Scientist, Restoration Specialist; Integrated Environmental Restoration Services, Inc., Tahoma, CA

Public Use of Restoration Areas

Chair: Brad Olson, Environmental Programs Manager, East Bay Regional Park District, Oakland; SERCAL Region 3 Director

Fixing the Forest

Chair: Mark Bethke, Senior Environmental Scientist, Jones & Stokes, Irvine; US Forest Service, 23 years; District Ranger, Los Padres National Forest, 11 years

Montane Riparian & Wetland Habitat Restoration

Chair: Regine Castelli, Restoration Ecologist, H.T. Harvey & Associates, Fresno; SERCAL Riparian Guild Chair

Invasive Species

Chair: Ron Unger, Senior Restoration Ecologist, EDAW, Sacramento; CalEPPC, Team Arundo del Norte, CA Weed Science Society, Putah Creek Council Board

Restoration & Management of Native Grasslands

Chair: Richard Nichols, Principal Biologist, Supervisor-Ecological Services, Levine-Fricke (LFR), Emeryville; President, California Native Grass Association

A schedule for the event is as follows:

Thursday, October 24: Workshops (Lunch included)
Evening Contra Dance

Friday, October 25: Plenary Session I and Technical Sessions
Concurrent Technical Sessions (3)
Poster & Exhibitor Sessions
Cocktails, Evening Banquet & Music

Saturday, October 26: Plenary Session II and Technical Sessions
Concurrent Technical Sessions (3)
Poster & Exhibitor Sessions
Continental Breakfast and Buffet Luncheon

Sunday, October 27
Field Trips to Local Restoration Sites

For more information go to www.sercal.org ❖

CDFA Leads Development of California Weed Mapping Handbook

Contributed by Doug Johnson, Executive Director Calif. Exotic Pest Plant Council

In Spring, 2002, the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) is leading the development of a Weed Mapping Handbook as a resource for local agencies. Along with weed mapping staff from CDFA, specialists from agencies including the California Department of Fish & Game, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.C. Cooperative Extension are part of the development team. Several nonprofit organizations and local agricultural commission offices are involved as well.

Many local groups, especially Weed Management Agencies (WMAs), have as part of their mission to inventory and map weed infestations in their area. To this end, CDFA recently facilitated the purchase of discounted GIS software for 32 WMAs. Many WMA's do not yet have personnel who know how to operate GIS software. Personnel may not have had training in GPS technology, cartography, hand mapping, or the integration of mapping into management practices. The guidebook is being designed to meet this need. Regional trainings will follow publication of the draft guidebook.

Not only will the guidebook give "how to" guidance, it will also provide information on standard data gathering protocol, so that everyone's data will be compatible. This is important for sharing data across jurisdictional boundaries, and for assembling local data into statewide data sets for larger scale inventory and analysis. The standards are based on national standards, that will ensure that California's data will be compatible nationwide, even internationally.

The handbook will feature both real-world and fictional case studies to demonstrate the principles described in the narrative. We are soliciting examples from local groups that have already engaged in weed mapping, so that others can learn from them.

We hope to have participation from all local weed groups in reviewing the first version of the Weed Mapping Handbook once it has been published and distributed (it is currently scheduled for release Summer, 2002). Subsequent revisions based on comments received from users will increase the usefulness of the handbook over time. ❖

UC Davis Hosts 2002 Aquatic Weed School

This October, UC Davis will hold its Aquatic Weed School 2002 at the University Club Conference Center, UC Davis, California from October 22-23, 2002.

Learn about the biology, ecology, and management of important aquatic weeds and algae. All methods of practical management including mechanical, biological, cultural, and chemical will be discussed.

The Aquatic Weed School is an intensive two-day course focusing on issues associated with developing weed management strategies in a variety of aquatic ecosystems.

The first day of the course will cover the impacts of aquatic weeds, the physical and chemical characteristics related to flowing and non-flowing aquatic systems, the identification, biology, and ecology of aquatic weeds, as well as their interaction with other organisms and strategies to prevent aquatic weed infestations. We will also examine the mode of action of herbicides registered for use in aquatic systems.

In the second day of the course we will discuss the management of aquatic weeds and the decision making process for selection of the appropriate control option in large lakes and reservoirs, small ponds and aquascapes, flowing systems, special circumstances and emergent and riparian weed control.

In addition, the course will also cover regulatory issues concerned with water rights, permits, and management impacts on fish and wildlife.

The school is designed for those involved in consulting, research, and management of aquatic weed systems throughout the western United States. These topics are presented in a lecture format. Lecture notes will be provided in a comprehensive notebook.

The course fee is $300 and includes all course materials and lunch each day. Class size is limited so early enrollment is suggested.

Accommodations are not included in the fee. Following is a list of some hotels in Davis. The first 2 are a few blocks from the University Club Conference Center. The 3rd is a little further but still within walking distance. Rates range from $50-$80 for a single room. Contact the following hotels directly to make a reservation: ❖

Aggie Inn: 245 First St, (530) 756-0352
University Lodge: 123 B St (800) 528-1234
Hallmark Inn: 110 F St, (800) 753-0035
For more information contact Kitty Schlosser: or go to http://wric.ucdavis.edu email: wric@vegmail.ucdavis.edu phone: 530-752-7091 fax: 530-752-4604

California Celebrates Its First Weed Awareness Week

In a vote on Thursday June 27th 2002, both the California State Assembly and Senate voted to pass Assembly Concurrent Resolution 218 (ACR-218), designating the second week of July as Harmful Nonnative *Weeds Awareness Week* in California. Thanks to sponsors California Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition (*CalIWAC*) and the *Regional Council*, this bill was put forward and passed.

During this week, the Legislature encourages all Californians to participate in activities to raise awareness of the widespread devastation caused by these weeds, and methods to prevent their pernicious spread.

The Assembly and Senate recognize that harmful nonnative, and often poisonous weeds are being spread more rapidly with increasing global travel and commerce, and that their destructive impact is profound. The Assembly and Senate recognize that California's cropland, rangeland, forests, parks, and wildlands are all affected by the scourge of these weeds. Analysis of ACR-218 sited the spread of certain harmful, nonnative species of plants to be enormously damaging not only to the environment and economy of California, but also to the world. ACR-218 highlighted the cost of lost crop productivity alone to be an estimated $7.4 billion nationwide, with a large proportion of this is attributable to California. Nationally, the direct and indirect costs of controlling these weeds may be as high as $5.4 billion annually. See page 23 for the full text of ACR-218.

Throughout the state *Weed Management Areas* are planning events to raise awareness and education of noxious weed issues during *Weed Awareness Week*. The activities planned by Humboldt County are exemplary of the kind of activities, which engage the community and create a vested and ongoing interest in fighting noxious weeds on a local level.

Humboldt County has planned a week of events. The week begins with a kick off Weed Fair at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center from 10-3pm. Information and demo booths will include weed I.D., native gardening alternatives, a hands-on children's activity, and a guided tour of invasive weeds at the Arcata Marsh. An illustrated booklet will be available free of charge, with descriptions of local invasive weeds and methods of removal. Throughout the week there will be *work parties* to create weed free zones in different locations around the county. ❖

Weed Awareness Bill Passes Assembly and Senate

BILL NUMBER: ACR 218

INTRODUCED BILL
TEXT INTRODUCED BY
Assembly Member Cogdill

JUNE 4, 2002

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 218—Relative to Harmful, Nonnative Weeds Awareness Week.

CA. State Assembly Member
Dave Cogdill R- Modesto

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST
ACR 218, as introduced, Cogdill. Harmful, nonnative weeds.

This measure would designate and recognize the 2nd week of July as Harmful, Nonnative Weeds Awareness Week, and would encourage Californians to participate in activities during that week to raise awareness of issues concerning harmful, nonnative weeds.

Fiscal committee: no.

WHEREAS, The spread of certain harmful, nonnative species of plants are causing enormous damage to the environment and economy of California and the world; and

WHEREAS, These harmful, nonnative weeds are being spread more rapidly with increasing global travel and commerce, at great cost to human and animal health, and economic security; and

WHEREAS, The destructive impact of harmful, nonnative and often poisonous weeds is profound, affecting California's cropland, rangeland, forests, parks, and wildlands, through decreased land productivity, degradation of wildlife habitat, and outright destruction of crops, livestock, wetlands, waterways, watersheds, and recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, The lost crop productivity caused by these weeds alone has been estimated at $7.4 billion nationwide, a large proportion of which is attributable to California. Nationally, the direct and indirect costs of controlling these weeds may be as high as $5.4 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, One of these weeds, called the yellow star thistle, has become the most common plant in California, and is responsible for ruining pasture land, choking out native plants, killing horses who eat its poisonous early-season growth, and stabbing people and animals with its large, sharp thorns; and

WHEREAS, Pathways for the spread of harmful, nonnative weeds are many and varied, involving both accidental and intentional introductions, and could be reduced by increased awareness of the dangers posed even by seemingly innocuous plants when transplanted to a different ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has recently adopted programs to prevent, control, and manage harmful, nonnative weeds, and California a noxious weed management program for the purpose of managing and eradicating noxious weeds through specified local weed management areas, and these programs have emphasized information sharing, education, and public awareness as crucial to the success of any prevention, control, or eradication effort; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the second week of July be designated and recognized as Harmful Nonnative Weeds Awareness Week in California; and be it further

Resolved, That on the occasion of Harmful Nonnative Weeds Awareness Week, the Legislature encourages all Californians to participate in activities to raise awareness of the scourge of these weeds, and of methods to prevent their pernicious spread; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author of this resolution for distribution. ❖

Upcoming Events:

CalEPPC 2002 Symposium to be held at the Sacramento Inn, Sacramento, California October 11-13, 2002. There is a call for abstracts and posters for the symposium. *See http://caleppc.org for more information.*

California Conference on Biological Control III. Conference to be held August 15-16, 2002 at the Buehler Alumni And Visitors Center, University of California, Davis. *For more information, please visit website at http://biocontrol.ucr.edu or call (530) 752-1606.*

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts 2002 Annual Meeting & Conference, November 14-17, 2002 Red Lion Hotel Redding, California *See http://carcd.org.*

Second Biennial Calfed Science Conference 2003 - Call for Abstracts, deadline September 13, 2002. Conference to be held at the Sacramento Convention Center, January 14-16, 2003. For more information contact the Program Co-chairs: *Elsie Holland at elsie.holland@tpl.org or Larry Brown at lrbrown@usgs.gov.*

SERCAL's Ninth Annual Conference, Call for papers and posters. Conference topic: *Restoration with a View: Sustaining Fragile Habitats*. To be held at the North Lake Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, CA. October 24-27, 2002. *For more information see website www.sercal.org or call Susan Clark, SERCAL Conference Coordinator, (661) 634-9228, smclark@lightspeed.net.*

Sierra Nevada Alliance - Annual Conference 2002. Topic: Water Connections: The Future of the Sierra. Conference to be held August 17 & 18, at the Camp Richardson Boat House in South Lake Tahoe. Register on line at http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org

Sierra Nevada Science Symposium 2002. Conference to be held at the North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe, CA. October 7-10, 2002. *For more information, see website: http://danr.ucop.edu/wrc/snssweb/snss.html or call Joni Rippee at 510-642-0095.*

California Interagency
Noxious Weed
Coordinating Committee
Noxious Times
1220 N Street, Room A-357
Sacramento, CA 95814

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